

News Release

Special Events Set in Recognition of Black History Month at the U of M Crookston

By Marcia Walker, Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, January 15, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (January 15, 2006) – A series of special events in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month have been set at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) beginning on Thursday, Jan. 25, and running through Monday, Feb. 26, 2007. The events will help raise consciousness and provide an opportunity for participants to focus on the area of civil rights and advocacy.

Events include the following:

Thursday, Jan. 25–A special presentation by Tommie Smith, Ph.D., civil rights advocate and former Olympic champion, will honor the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. The presentation will be held in Kiehle Auditorium from 4-5 p.m. with a reception at 6 p.m. Smith, the gold medalist in the 200-meters in the 1968 Olympics held in Mexico City, broke both the world and Olympic records at the time. Since then, Smith has devoted his life as a civil rights advocate and champion for the cause of oppressed people. The event is organized by the Black Student Association (BSA) at the Crookston campus and sponsored by Diversity & Multicultural Affairs.

Monday, Feb. 5–the acoustic group Scratch Track will perform from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge in the Student Center. Scratch Track blends funk, folk, hip hop, rock, and gospel to create their unique sound. Their sound is a combination of rural and urban, street and church, and north and south. The performance of Scratch Track is sponsored by Concerts & Lectures.

Thursday, February 15, a presentation on the Historical Significance of the Black Church and Gospel music will take place in the Prairie Room at the Student Center from 6-7:30p.m.

Thursday and Friday, February 22-23, Boxes & Walls, an interactive museum, will be available in Bede Ballroom in the Student Center from noon – 4 p.m. The museum, sponsored by Service Learning, provides a perspective on various oppressed groups by creating situations where participants will experience discrimination while participating in the re-creation of an event. The title of the project represents the “boxes” we place people in based on differences and the “walls” we build against people we view as different. There will be three rooms addressing the issues of racial profiling, people with disabilities, international students and women's issues.

Black History Month, a four-week celebration of African American History, was first initiated in 1926. For more information on Black History Month at UMC, please contact Diversity Coordinator Marcia Walker at 218-281-8583 or walke161@umn.edu.

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2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716
800-862-6466 | 218-281-6510 | umcinfo@umn.edu

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